



MARVEL  
COMICS

MAY  
#7

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

MADNESS  
IS ONLY IN THE  
MIND!





# MADNESS

is all in the

# MIND

COME IN,  
MR.  
JAMESON.

THERE IS NO  
REASON FOR  
YOU TO FEAR  
ME!





WHAT..?

WHO..?

I KEEP MY TRUE IDENTITY A SECRET, MR. JAMESON.

IF CRIMINALS WERE TO LEARN WHO I AM, THEY MIGHT ATTACK MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

FOR THE PRESENT, HOWEVER, YOU MAY CALL ME MYSTERIO!

WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES..?!

HOW DID YOU DO THAT??

MY SECRETS ARE... MY SECRETS, MR. JAMESON. SUFFICE TO SAY YOU AND I HAVE A SIMILAR MISSION.

MISSION..? ( TAKE THIS ENVELOPE, OPEN IT IN TWO DAYS AND PRINT IN YOUR NEWSPAPER THE MESSAGE YOU WILL FIND THERE.

REMEMBER.

TWO DAYS, NO SOONER, NO LATER.

HE'S GONE! VANISHED INTO THIN AIR!

JOHN BYRNE  
WRITER, PENCILER,  
INKER, LETTERER

CHRISTIE SCHEELE  
COLORIST

RALPH MACCHIO  
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

BASED ON ORIGINAL  
WORKS BY  
STAN LEE  
AND  
STEVE DITKO

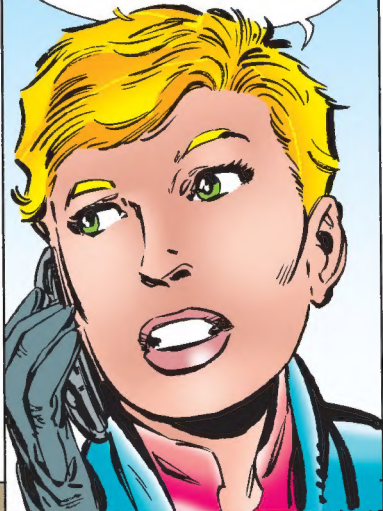






YES -- ELECTRO BUSTED INTO THE TOMBS ABOUT FORTY MINUTES AGO, AND SPIDER-MAN SHOWED UP TEN MINUTES LATER.

FROM WHAT WE CAN TELL, SPIDER-MAN HAS BEEN FIGHTING ELECTRO IN THERE...

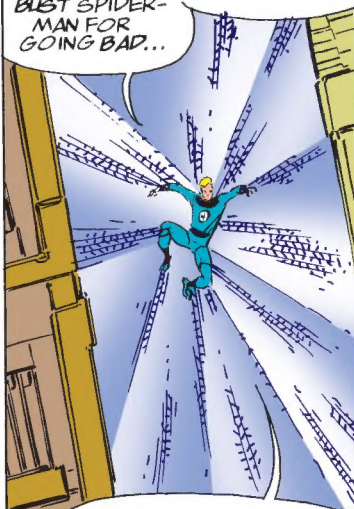


THERE! AS LONG AS I'M CAREFUL NOT TO GET TANGLED I CAN CLIMB THE WEB WITHOUT IT STICKING TO THE UNSTABLE MOLECULES IN MY UNIFORM.

"...ALTHOUGH IT ALL SEEMS QUIET NOW!!"

YOU CAME TO BUST SPIDER-MAN FOR GOING BAD...

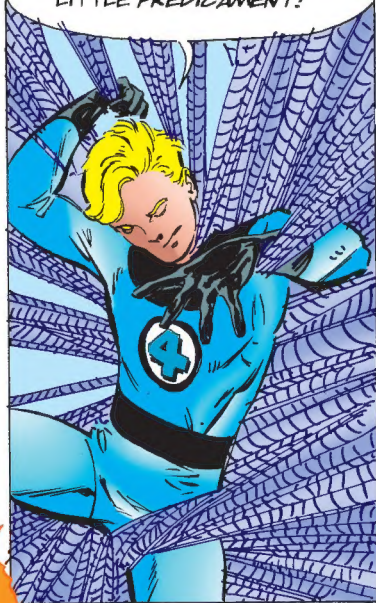
NICE MOVES, FLAME-BRAIN!



...AND HE NAILS YOUR SORRY BUTT TO THE WALL WITH THIS FUNKY FLAME-PROOF WEBBING.

WELL--MAYBE IF I USE MY BRAIN, LIKE REED IS ALWAYS YELLING AT ME TO DO...

...I CAN GET OUT OF THIS LITTLE PREDICAMENT!



ALL RIGHT!! NOW LET'S SEE MR. SMART-WEBS TRY THAT TRICK AGAIN!

**FLAME ON!!**



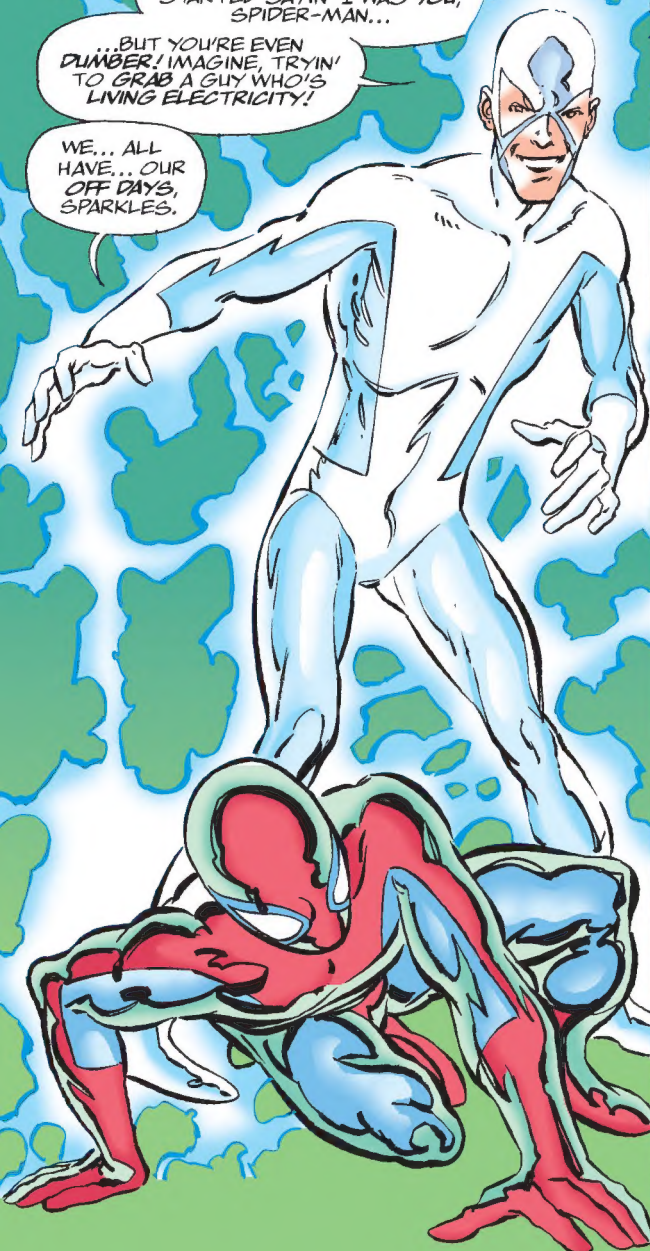


AT THAT MOMENT, LESS  
THAN TWO DOZEN YARDS  
AWAY...

I THOUGHT JAMESON WAS  
DUMB AS DIRT WHEN HE  
STARTED SAYIN' I WAS YOU,  
SPIDER-MAN...

...BUT YOU'RE EVEN  
DUMBER! IMAGINE TRYIN'  
TO GRAB A GUY WHO'S  
LIVING ELECTRICITY!

WE... ALL  
HAVE... OUR  
OFF DAYS,  
SPARKLES.



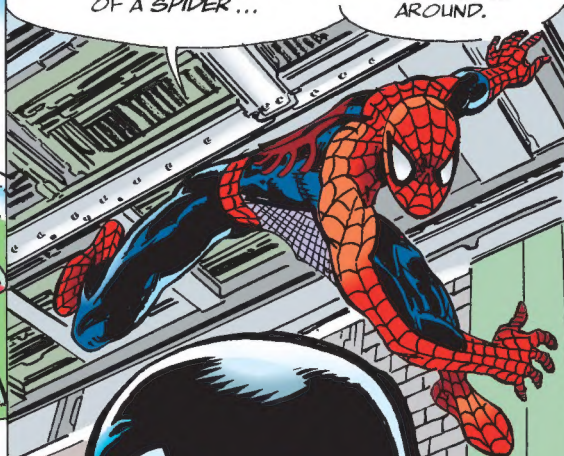
BUT YOU DON'T EXACTLY  
WIN THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR  
SMARTS YOURSELF...



...IF YOUR ATTACKS DON'T  
FACTOR IN MY SPEED AND  
RESILIENCE.

AFTER ALL, THERE'S MORE  
TO HAVING THE  
PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH  
OF A SPIDER ...

...THAN JUST  
BEING ABLE TO  
TOSS CARS  
AROUND.




AND  
NOW...



YOU IDIOT!  
THAT'S NOT  
AN EXIT!  
THAT'S A  
CLOSET!





A comic book page showing Spider-Man in a maintenance closet. He is surrounded by several men in white lab coats. One man is being thrown through a window. Spider-Man is looking at the man who was thrown, and another man is laughing. Spider-Man is also looking at a man who is being thrown through a window. The background is a blue and green pattern.

ALL YOU'VE DONE IS  
BOX YOURSELF IN!

NOT QUITE,  
CHUCKLES.

I KNEW  
THAT WAS A  
MAINTENANCE  
CLOSET.

AND I KNEW THAT EVEN IN A  
JAIL THERE'D BE A COUPLE  
OF THINGS I COULD FIND IN  
THERE.



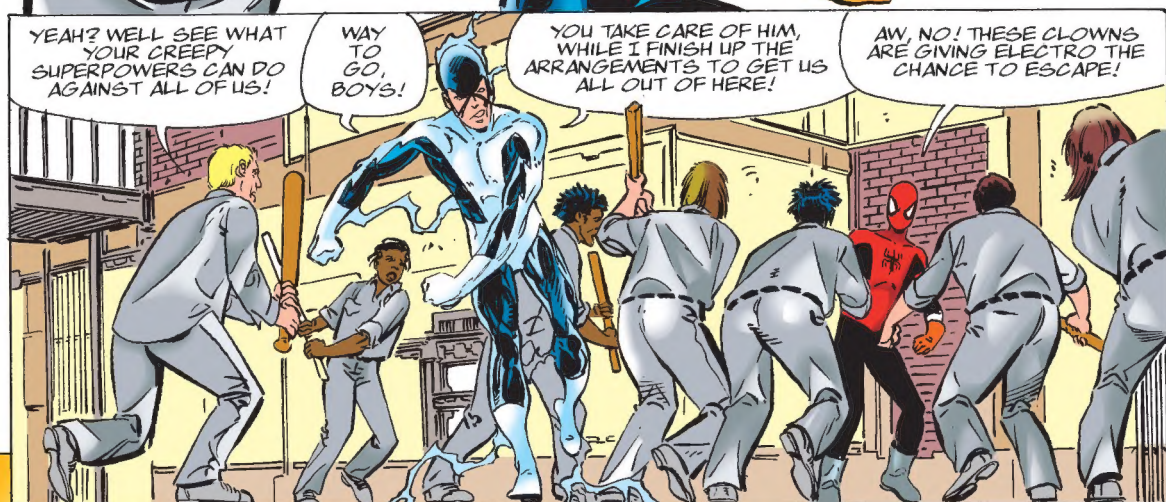
A dynamic comic book panel showing Spider-Man in his red and blue suit, equipped with his spider-sense (glowing red spider emblem on his chest) and large black boots, leaping through the air. He is attacking Doctor Octopus, who is wearing his signature white lab coat and blue mask. Doctor Octopus is being thrown back by Spider-Man's impact, with his mechanical tentacles visible. In the background, another Spider-Man is seen in a similar pose, also attacking a Doctor Octopus. The scene is set against a green and blue background with stylized clouds. The panel is divided into three sections by a diagonal line.

LIKE A PAIR OF RUBBER  
BOOTS AND SOME RUBBER  
GLOVES!

AND I GUESS  
I DON'T HAVE TO  
TELL YOU...

...THAT YOUR ZAPS DON'T  
DO DIDDLY AS LONG AS  
THE RUBBER KEEPS ME  
FROM BEING GROUNDED!







"YOU GO CATCH HIM, WHILE I ROUND UP THESE LOOSE PUNKS."

"YOU CAN COLLECT THE APOLOGY I OWE YOU LATER!!"

YEAH-- LIKE THAT'S GONNA HAPPEN!

BUT STORM SHOWED UP AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME. IF I'D HAD TO CORRAL ALL THOSE CREEPS MYSELF...

...ELECTRO WOULD HAVE BEEN LONG GONE NOW...

HEY, ZAPMEISTER! WHAT'S YOUR HURRY?

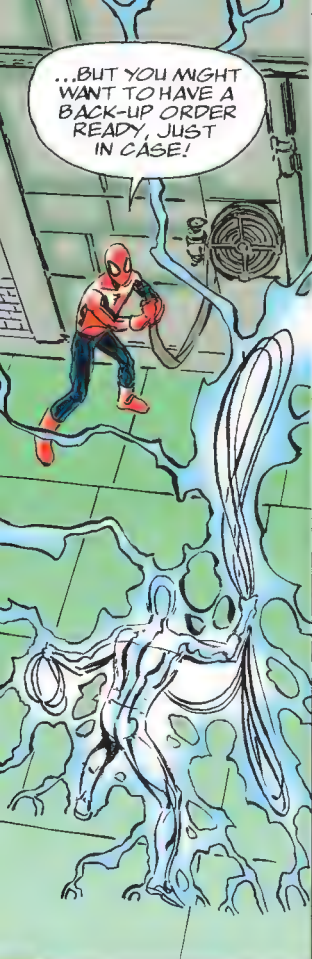
SPIDER-MAN! BLAST!

WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO PLAY AROUND WITH YOU THIS TIME, DUMMY.

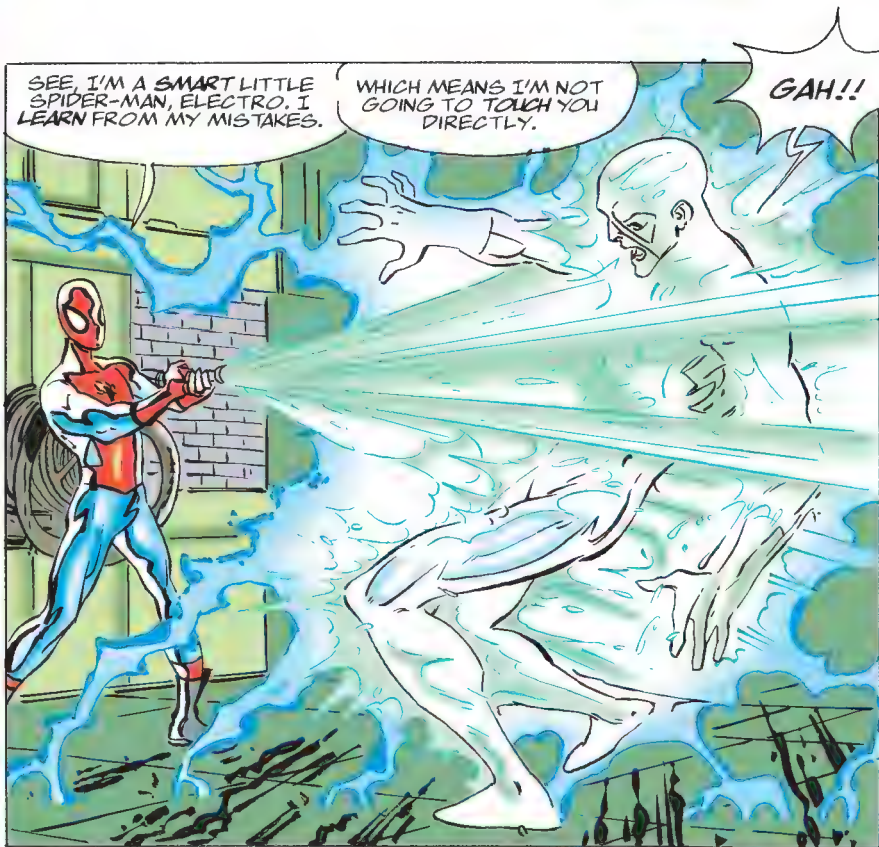
ONCE I WRAP THESE LIVE WIRES AROUND YOU, IT'LL BE FRICASSEED SPIDER FOR THE BLUE PLATE SPECIAL!

MAYBE...





...BUT YOU MIGHT WANT TO HAVE A BACK-UP ORDER READY, JUST IN CASE!



SEE, I'M A SMART LITTLE SPIDER-MAN, ELECTRO. I LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES.

WHICH MEANS I'M NOT GOING TO TOUCH YOU DIRECTLY.

GAH!!



WHADDAYA KNOW! IT WORKED! THE WATER SHORT-CIRCUITED HIM!

MAYBE THINGS CAN GO RIGHT IN MY LIFE, EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE!



NOW LET'S POP OFF THIS MASK AND SEE...

HUH! IF THIS WAS A TV SHOW RIGHT ABOUT NOW I'D BE SAYING "AH HA! SO IT WAS HIM ALL ALONG!!"

BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS CLOWN BEFORE!



OKAY--ELECTRO IS ALL TRUSSED UP FOR THE COPS, AND FROM THE SOUNDS OF SILENCE I'M GUESSING THE TORCH HAS TAKEN CARE OF THE OTHER BAD GUYS.

I'LL JUST RETRIEVE MY CAMERA AND SEE WHAT KIND OF PICTURES I GOT.



INCREDIBLE! AMAZING!  
THESE PICTURES ARE THE  
SCOOP OF THE YEAR!



YOU'VE DONE WELL,  
PARKER! VERY WELL, IN  
FACT!

I MAY HAVE MADE A TINY MISTAKE, THINKING  
SPIDER-MAN WAS ELECTRO, BUT RUNNING THESE  
PICTURES AS AN EXCLUSIVE WILL PUT ME BACK  
IN THE GAME!



NOW YOU KIDS RUN ALONG  
WHILE OL' UNCLE JONAH  
TAKES CARE OF BUSINESS!

"UNCLE"  
JONAH  
..?



≡SIGH≡

LET IT GO, PETER. WORK  
FOR HIM AS LONG AS I  
HAVE, AND YOU'LL GET USED  
TO HIS MOOD SWINGS!

BUT--I MUST SAY  
CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN  
ORDER! THOSE WERE  
REALLY AMAZING PICTURES!

SOME DAY YOU MUST  
TELL ME HOW YOU GOT  
THEM.

MAYBE I WILL... SOMEDAY.

THE WAY I'VE STARTED  
TO FEEL ABOUT BETTY--

SHE COULD BE THE FIRST  
ONE THAT I SHARE MY  
SECRET WITH...



BUT, EVEN AS PETER PARKER  
DRAWS TO THE END OF  
WHAT SEEMS TO HIM AN  
UNUSUALLY GOOD DAY...

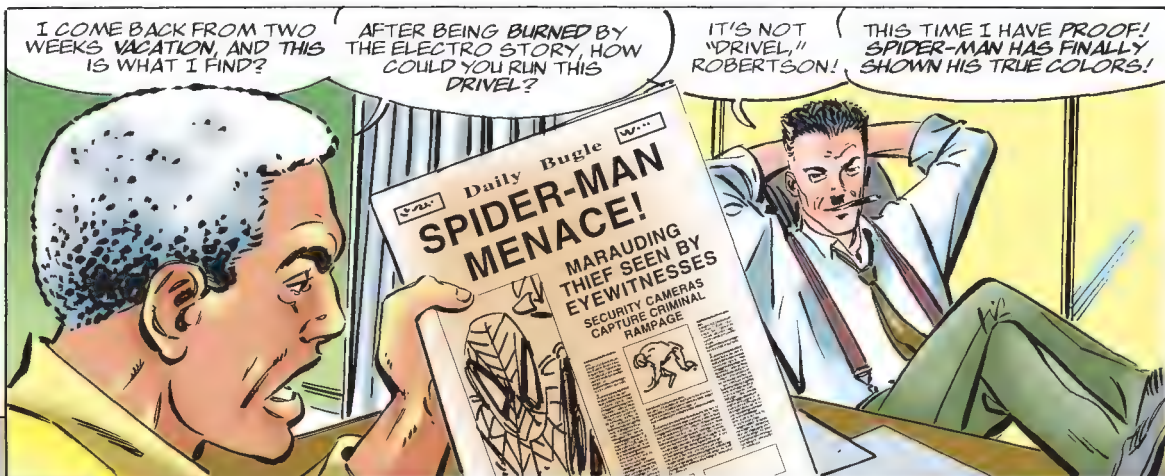
...EVENTS ARE  
MOVING TOWARD  
DISASTER.

TWO DAYS  
LATER...

JONAH, HAVE YOU  
COMPLETELY  
FLIPPED??





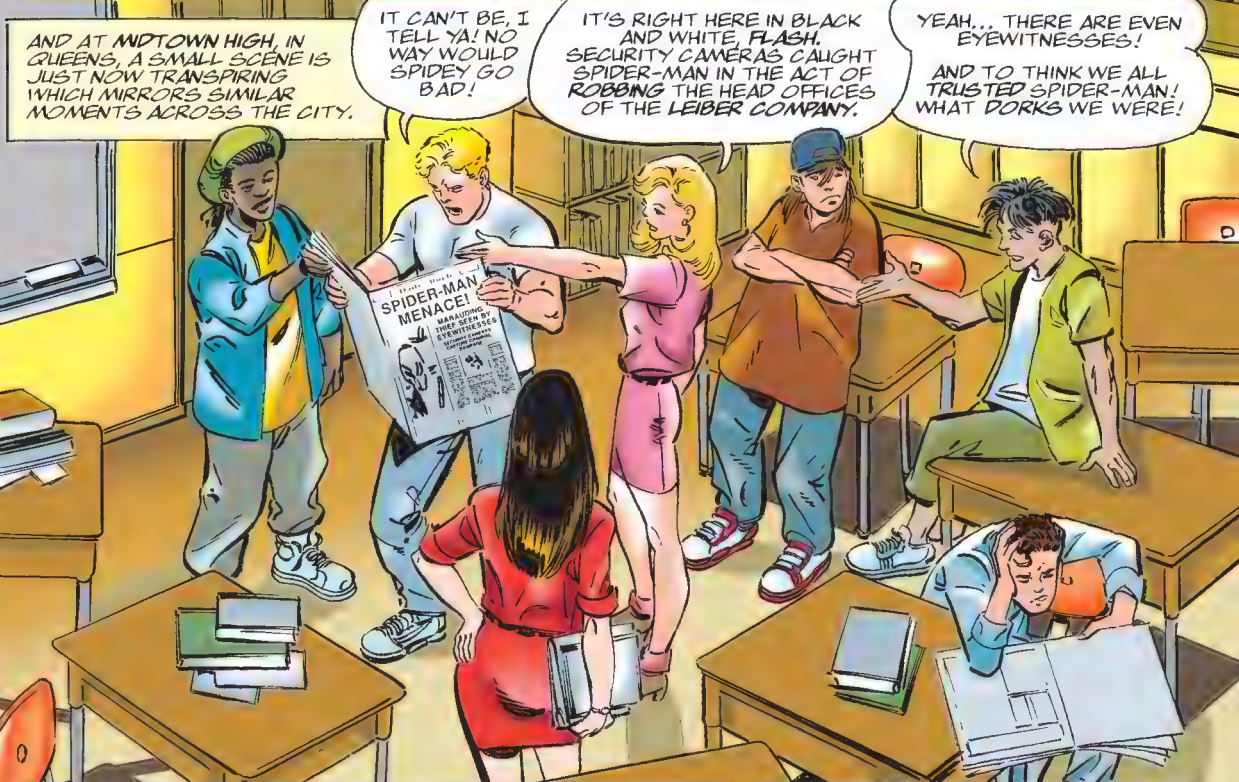


I COME BACK FROM TWO WEEKS VACATION, AND THIS IS WHAT I FIND?

AFTER BEING BURNED BY THE ELECTRO STORY, HOW COULD YOU RUN THIS DRIVEL?

IT'S NOT "DRIVEL," ROBERTSON!

THIS TIME I HAVE PROOF! SPIDER-MAN HAS FINALLY SHOWN HIS TRUE COLORS!



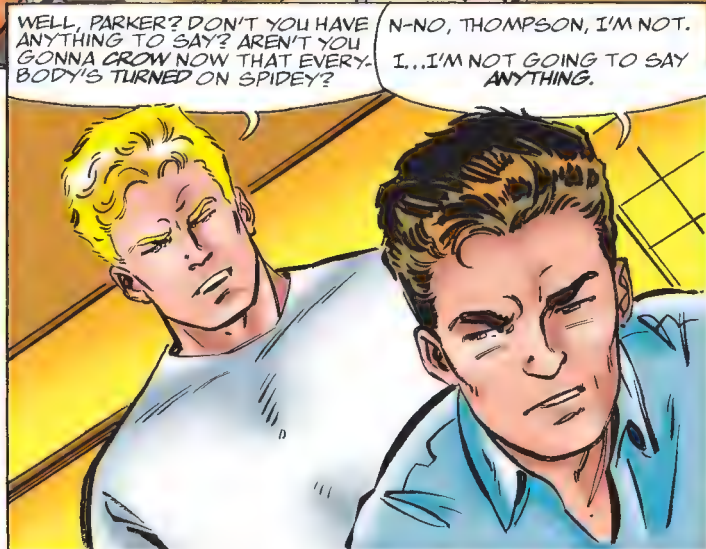
AND AT MIDTOWN HIGH, IN QUEENS, A SMALL SCENE IS JUST NOW TRANSPIRING WHICH MIRRORS SIMILAR MOMENTS ACROSS THE CITY.

IT CAN'T BE, I TELL YA! NO WAY WOULD SPIDEY GO BAD!

IT'S RIGHT HERE IN BLACK AND WHITE FLASH. SECURITY CAMERAS CAUGHT SPIDER-MAN IN THE ACT OF ROBBING THE HEAD OFFICES OF THE LEIBER COMPANY.

YEAH... THERE ARE EVEN EYEWITNESSES!

AND TO THINK WE ALL TRUSTED SPIDER-MAN! WHAT DORKS WE WERE!



WELL, PARKER? DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY? AREN'T YOU GONNA CROW NOW THAT EVERYBODY'S TURNED ON SPIDEY?

N-NO, THOMPSON, I'M NOT. I...I'M NOT GOING TO SAY ANYTHING.



THIS IS MORE SERIOUS THAN FLASH THOMPSON COULD EVER GUESS.

I TAPED THOSE SECURITY CAMERA VIDEOS WHEN THEY WERE SHOWN ON THE NEWS LAST NIGHT. I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE THE CHAMELEON IMPERSONATING ME AGAIN...



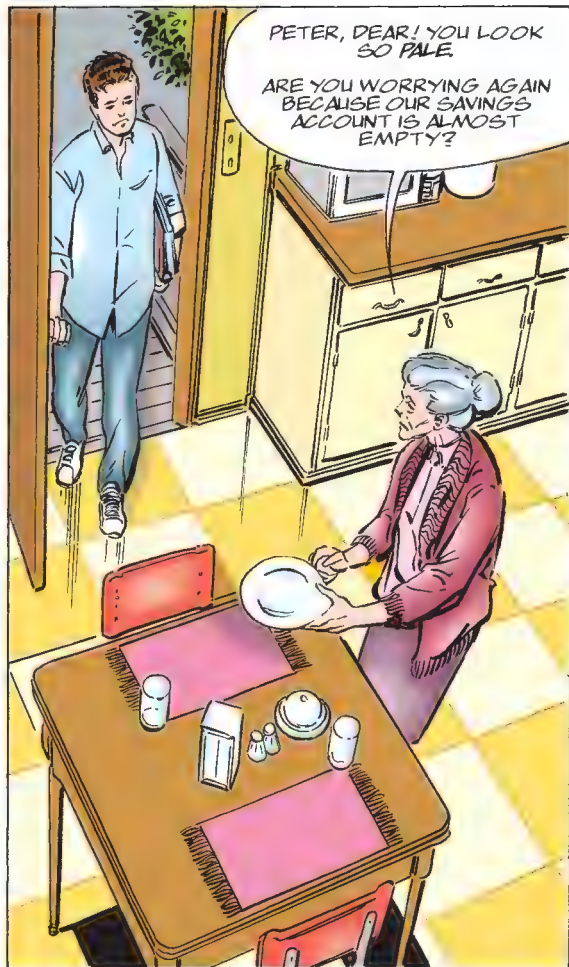


BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF FAKERY IN ANYTHING THE SPIDER-MAN IN THOSE VIDEOS DOES.

NO WEB-GUN, NO SUCKERS ON HIS HANDS AND FEET. HE REALLY HAS SPIDER-POWERS...



...AND I'M THE ONLY ONE ON EARTH WITH THOSE ABILITIES!



PETER, DEAR! YOU LOOK SO PALE.

ARE YOU WORRYING AGAIN BECAUSE OUR SAVINGS ACCOUNT IS ALMOST EMPTY?



DON'T WORRY, DEAR! I DIDN'T DO THE BOOKS FOR YOUR UNCLE BEN FOR ALL THOSE YEARS WITHOUT LEARNING A FEW TRICKS!

WE'LL MANAGE, SOMEHOW!

I... I'M SURE WE WILL, AUNT MAY.

I... JUST NEED TO BE ON MY OWN FOR A BIT...



I CAN'T SLEEP. I'M AFRAID TO SLEEP. AFRAID OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.

IT'S BEEN ALMOST A YEAR SINCE I WAS BITTEN BY THAT RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, SINCE I BECAME SPIDER-MAN.



I KNOW I'VE BEEN LIVING RIGHT ON THE EDGE FOR ALL THAT TIME, ONE STEP AHEAD OF COMPLETELY LOSING IT WITH JAMESON CONSTANTLY PERSECUTING ME, AND PEOPLE LIKE DOCTOR OCTOPUS, THE VULTURE AND ELECTRO TRYING TO KILL ME.

IT'S MORE THAN ANY TEENAGER SHOULD HAVE TO BEAR. HAVE... HAVE I FINALLY SLIPPED OVER THE EDGE?



NEXT MORNING, AS HIS CLOCK RADIO ROUSES PETER PARKER FROM FITFUL SLEEP...

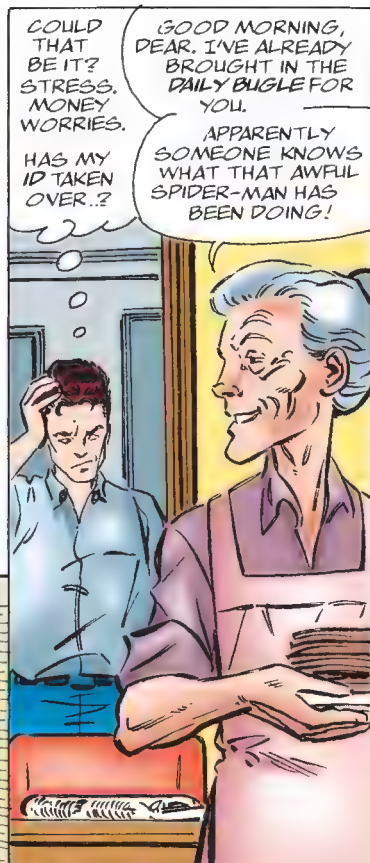
...CONFIRM THAT SPIDER-MAN STRUCK AGAIN IN THE EARLY HOURS OF... **CLIC**



NO! NO! I DIDN'T LEAVE THIS ROOM ALL NIGHT!



AND YET... HOW CAN I BE SURE? IF SOMEONE WITH MY POWERS STARTED WALKING IN HIS SLEEP...



COULD THAT BE IT? STRESS. MONEY WORRIES.

GOOD MORNING, DEAR. I'VE ALREADY BROUGHT IN THE DAILY BUGLE FOR YOU.

APPARENTLY SOMEONE KNOWS WHAT THAT AWFUL SPIDER-MAN HAS BEEN DOING!

HAS MY ID TAKEN OVER..?

WHAT...?

**ATTENTION SPIDER-MAN!**  
The City believes you to have turned to the wrong side of the law. Meet me atop the Brooklyn Bridge at 9AM tomorrow, and I will give you the opportunity to prove your innocence.

"AND YOU TRUST THIS GUY...?"

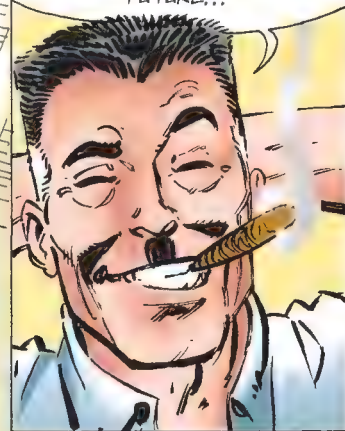
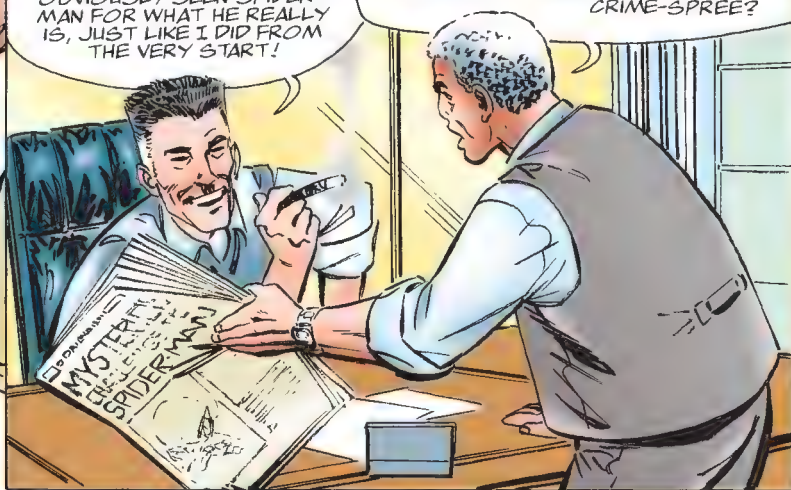
I HAVE NO REASON NOT TO, ROBBIE!

MYSTERIO IS A REAL SUPERHERO--AND HE'S OBVIOUSLY SEEN SPIDER-MAN FOR WHAT HE REALLY IS, JUST LIKE I DID FROM THE VERY START!

AND YOU DON'T SEE ANYTHING AT ALL SUSPICIOUS IN THIS MYSTERIO CHARACTER HAVING GIVEN YOU THAT COPY TO RUN BEFORE SPIDER-MAN SUPPOSEDLY STARTED ON THIS CRIME-SPREE?

WHY SHOULD I, ROBBIE? YOU DIDN'T MEET MYSTERIO. I DID.

AND I'LL SAY THIS--ANYONE WITH HIS AMAZING POWERS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE NO PROBLEM SEEING INTO THE FUTURE...





"...OR HANDING SPIDER-MAN HIS HEAD!"

IT HAD TO BE THIS BRIDGE, DIDN'T IT?



ALL MY LIFE THERE'S BEEN SOMETHING ABOUT THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE--A WEIRD FEELING, LIKE SOMEONE HAD STEPPED ON MY GRAVE WHENEVER I CROSSED IT.

NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW...

THERE'S "MYSTERIO." AND HE SURE LOOKS LIKE HE LIVES UP TO HIS NAME!

WELCOME, SPIDER-MAN. IT IS SO GRATIFYING TO SEE YOU RACING TOWARD YOUR OWN DESTRUCTION.

GEEZ, DON'T WE EVEN GET TO SHAKE HANDS BEFORE YOU START SPOUTING CLICHES, SMOKY?

OKAY--LET'S MAKE THIS SHORT AND...

HUH??







**OW!**

HOW'D YOU  
HIT ME  
FROM OVER  
THERE?!?

I'VE STUDIED YOU  
CAREFULLY, SPIDER-MAN. I  
KNOW OVERCONFIDENCE  
TO BE YOUR GREATEST  
WEAKNESS.

GOES WITH  
BEING THE  
BEST  
THERE IS,  
FISHBOWL!

NOW HOLD STILL,  
AND I'LL TRY NOT TO  
HURT YOU TOO

**HUH?**

YOU WASTE  
ENERGY,  
SPIDER-MAN.

YOUR  
POWERS  
ARE  
USELESS  
AGAINST  
ME!

OH, YEAH? WELL, TRY  
DODGING MY WEBS,  
SPOOKY!!

I DON'T HAVE TO DODGE,  
SPIDER-MAN.

YOUR WEB CANNOT ADHERE  
TO WHAT IT CANNOT TOUCH.

WHERE'D  
YOU GO?

HEY!

AND  
NOW...





I AM RIGHT  
HERE, SPIDER-  
MAN.

OR AM  
I  
HERE?

IT MATTERS NOT. THIS  
BATTLE IS OVER!

OR  
HERE  
?

UH-HNH!!



HE'S NOT HUMAN! IT FELT LIKE HE WAS HITTING ME WITH A JACKHAMMER!

GOTTA GET AWAY--GOTTA THINK.

EVEN THOUGH I KNOW JAMESON IS GONNA HAVE A FIELD DAY WHEN HE FINDS OUT MYSTERIO MADE SPIDER-MAN TURN TAIL AND R.N.

AND SURE ENOUGH, ONLY A FEW HOURS LATER...

RUN THIS IN EVERY FEATURE! NEWS, SPORTS, FOOD, THEATER! WHATEVER YOU COVER, FIND A WAY TO WRITE UP THE DEFEAT OF SPIDER-MAN!

PETER! YOU LOOK TERRIBLE! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

I... ER... FLUNKED MY BIOLOGY EXAM THIS MORNING, BETTY. DIDN'T STUDY HARD ENOUGH, I GUESS.

WHAT'S J.J. SO HAPPY ABOUT?

HE'S ARRANGED A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THAT MYSTERIO CHARACTER.

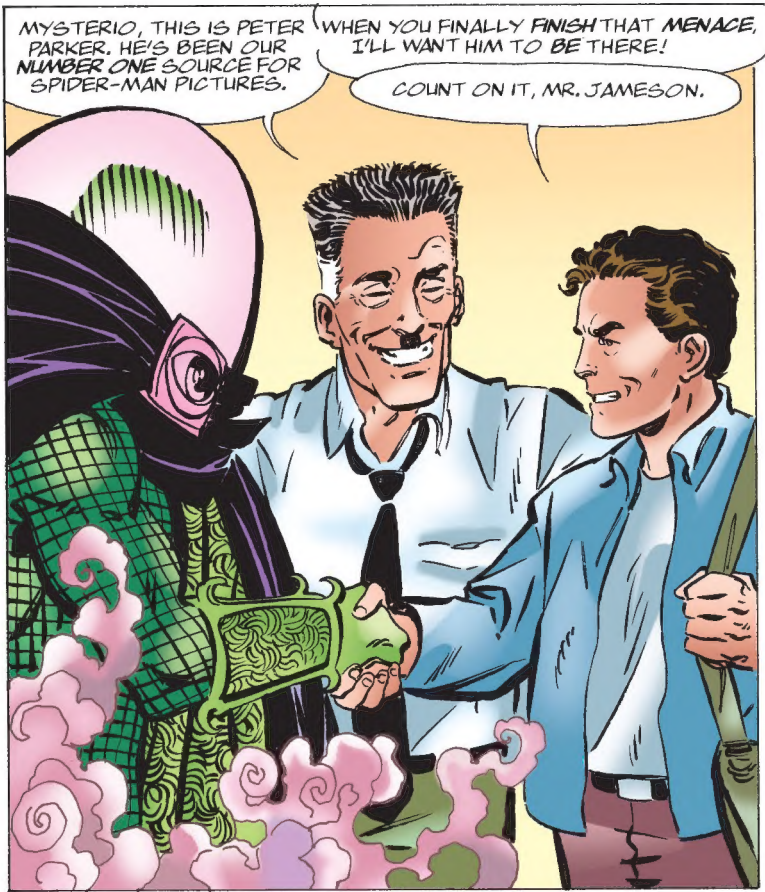
HE SHOULD BE HERE ANY...

GOOD DAY, MR. JAMESON.

AH! THERE YOU ARE!

PARKER! GET OVER HERE!





MYSTERIO, THIS IS PETER PARKER. HE'S BEEN OUR NUMBER ONE SOURCE FOR SPIDER-MAN PICTURES.

WHEN YOU FINALLY FINISH THAT MENACE, I'LL WANT HIM TO BE THERE!

COUNT ON IT, MR. JAMESON.



THAT WAS ONE OF THE CREEPIEST EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE! BUT AT LEAST THIS TIME MYSTERIO WAS SOLID ENOUGH FOR ME TO PLANT A SPIDER-TRACER IN THE FOLDS OF HIS CAPE!



PERFECT! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS HOMING IN ON THE SPIDER-TRACER, JUST AS I HOPED IT WOULD.

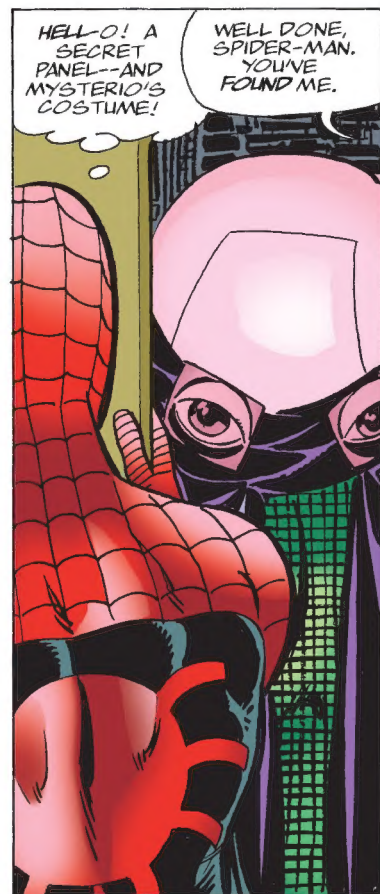
BUT IT SEEMS TO BE LEADING ME TO THE OSBORN STUDIOS. WOULDN'T IT BE WEIRD IF MYSTERIO TURNED OUT TO BE NORMAN OSBORN, FINALLY DRIVEN NUTS BY ALL HIS WEALTH!



LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE FILMING SOME KIND OF SPACE OPERA.

MYSTERIO WOULD BE RIGHT AT HOME IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THESE OUTFITS.









NOW ALL YOU HAVE TO DO  
IS SURVIVE!

NEXT: SPIDEY LEARNS THE  
SECRETS OF MYSTERIO,  
AND FINDS HIMSELF TWO  
THOUSAND MILES FROM  
HOME FACING THE  
INCREDIBLE HULK AND THE  
MAN WHO WILL GO ON TO  
BECOME HIS GREATEST  
FOE!

BE HERE IN 30 DAYS FOR  
THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF  
**THE GREEN GOBLIN!**





Tyrant  
Lizard  
King

EMPIRE